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# GLAST Monthly PSR

7 April 2004

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**Science**

**S. Ritz**  
*Project Scientist*



# Accomplishments (Highlights, March)

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- u ***Julie McEnery named Mission Scientist. Hurray!***
- u ***Bertsch committee completed review of LAT calibration plans.***
  - *result of moving LAT beam test to after instrument delivery, now a 2 \_ tower test.*
  - *closeout telecon with committee on 23 March, briefing J. Ormes and S. Ritz*
  - *many useful comments and recommendations (no formal RFAs). Main conclusion: the committee confirms the plans are sound, and the beam test is still extremely important. After a few minor revisions, the report will be given to S. Ritz. The report will become a Project document, and will be transmitted to LAT. Results will be summarized to the SWG. Recommendations will be incorporated into the planning.*
- u ***LAT has draft of the Data Challenge summary report. Should be released in April.***
- u ***LAT End-to-end Test Committee Report complete!***
- u ***GLAST talk at Brookhaven National Lab March 2.***
- u ***Telecon to discuss GLAST press plan with Goddard PAO, HQ, and Lynn Cominsky. Next telecon 21 April.***



# Issues/Problems

- u **No problems.**
- u **Issue: assessing impacts of possible higher orbit altitude. Main issues identified are**
  - background rates increase outside of SAA, particularly at low energy. Impacts on trigger rates, data volume, and residual backgrounds after ground-based analysis. Changes are relatively small, but should still be quantified. GBM quick estimate is 5-10% loss of sensitivity due to background increase (Meegan).
  - SAA is ~5% larger and more intense: small incremental loss of observing time and increase in total radiation dose. Check effects of activation on CAL noise (Grove).
  - Assessing changes in LAT background fluxes at 560 km, 580 km, and 600 km (Burnett, Nolan). Does this bracket the range? [Limited by ELV or deorbit capability of propulsion system?]
  - Note: project-level updates needed for environmental specs (TID, micrometeoroid density, etc.) and their impacts on the system.
- u **Finding solutions to potential impacts of Center IT security increases on ability of LAT team members at Goddard and GSFC to collaborate on science tools with LAT (mainly VRVS and IM). Working issue with LHEA IT personnel, along with some informal advice from contacts around the Center (Wyn Watson).**
- u **Issue: possible benefits of fast-track processing a subset of LAT science data? (Carry-over from last month.)**
  - discussion with Ross et al to confirm underlying assumptions
  - should not be a significant impact on the ground system



# Upcoming Events & Schedule

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- υ ***SWG telecon April 22***
- υ ***Finish Draft Science Reference Mission (SRM) document***
- υ ***Longer-term: now starting planning the first GLAST Symposium (2005 or early 2006).***
- υ ***Beyond Einstein Symposium at Stanford 12-15 May – GLAST talk by P. Michelson.***
- υ ***GLAST Project Science talk and party scheduled for 6 May: N. Gehrels will talk about SWIFT+GLAST.***
- υ ***Working on scheduling next GLAT Users Committee meeting. Josh Grindlay (Harvard) has agreed to serve as chair.***